

INFORMA ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 31 MAR 1949

SUBJECT CDU Membership Increase in Soviet Zone

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1. During February 1949 the CDU membership in the Russian Zone increased considerably. One of the factors which caused this increase is that when personnel reductions are necessary, employees who have no party allegiance are dismissed first. The SED is accepting no new members except after a one to two year probation; the CDU is the only party in the Eastern Zone which is now accepting new members with few formalities.
 2. The chief editor of the CDU organ Thüringer Tageblatt, Baumann, was arrested recently. According to statements from SIA headquarters in Karlsruhe, this arrest was not directed against the party or the newspaper, but was because of Baumann's own actions. He was apparently intending to escape to the western zones and his secretary, attempting to go several days in advance, was apprehended at the border with compromising documents.

This document is hereby regraded to
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